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# Extension Service *Review*

VOLUME 16

JANUARY 1945

NO. 1

## It's been a busy year

■ "1944 will be the busiest year Extension work has faced in its 30 years," prophesied Director Wilson in the January issue of the REVIEW last year; and it has turned out to be even as he said.

With "Grow more in '44" as the theme song, agents worked to produce more milk with an 8-point program—to grow more Victory Gardens on farms and on city lots—to mobilize nonfarm youth, women, and men to work on farms—to preserve in some way all the food grown—to train new farm labor assistants and war food emergency agents—to organize and train neighborhood leaders to reach more families—to take JTT courses to improve their own efficiency and to encourage farmers to utilize inexperienced labor more effectively—to explain the income tax, which hit many farmers for the first time—to help young folks finance a 4-H Liberty ship—to collect milkweed floss for life belts—to grow enough to feed a fighter and more in '44—to combat inflation and the land boom—to organize veterans' advisory committees—to promote safety and prevent fire—to collect salvage—to sell bonds, and at the same time carry on the extension program to meet local needs.

### 8-Point Dairy Program

One of the most urgent wartime food needs was for dairy products. The dairy industry committee, representing nearly all the buyers of milk and cream, cooperated in working out the 8-point dairy program. Nearly 2 million copies of "what and why" leaflets issued by the USDA were distributed to dairy farmers. These were supplemented by "how" leaflets issued by the States. These leaflets reached every patron of every creamery, cheese factory, milk plant, re-

ceiving station, and condensery, creating wide interest of farmers in sound dairy practices. Proof that the local follow-up was effective is that dairy farmers produced 119 billion pounds of milk in 1944.

### Nearly 2,000 Emergency Assistants at Work

To reach all farm families who needed help in their problems of growing and preserving the war food supply, the War Food Administration provided funds for employing nearly 2,000 additional emergency assistants. Later, Congress made the money available for another fiscal year. The emergency assistants worked on Victory Gardens, food conservation, poultry, dairying, beef cattle, and sheep. Work with the Negroes in the South was expanded with these emergency funds, and 4-H Club work received an impetus.

Typical of what these emergency assistants are doing is an example from Kentucky where they helped place 17,000 baby chicks with 4-H members and farmers and placed fall garden seed packages with 500 4-H Club members and farmers. In Illinois, special meetings were held to plan for enrolling all farm co-operators in "rye for pasture" program to increase the milk supply. In Delaware, the assistants helped with corn-borer control to cut down waste of an important crop. In Idaho, activities included the 8-point dairy program, wartime use of available fertilizers, utilization of irrigation water in short water areas. In an Oklahoma county, the new man made 339 farm visits, and held 44 community meetings. He also organized neighborhood leaders in 22 communities and trained 79 neighborhood leaders on ways of increasing food production.

One of the biggest difficulties in the way of growing more in '44 was the farm labor shortage which showed no improvement over 1943. It was again the responsibility of the Extension Service to organize local forces to see that no food crops were lost through lack of labor.

At the end of the crop year, no appreciable amount of food had been lost through lack of labor, and the Extension Service had placed with 700,000 farmers the workers they needed to fill 5,200,000 farm jobs. Of these, 1,300,000 were filled by youth and 700,000 by women. Information was supplied to local Selective Service Boards regarding the contribution of 1,300,000 young men to agricultural production.

Under the leadership of county agents, more than 6,000 field and office assistants, who were paid from farm labor funds, and more than 100,000 volunteer leaders helped with the program.

Town folks turned out to save local crops and farm work proved an educational experience for the city folks as well as a help to the farmer.

### Victory Gardens Hold Their Own

1944 Victory Gardens held their own with the 1943 record. About 19 million gardens were grown, and two-thirds of the housewives in America preserved some food. These jobs required a great many extension man-hours. Victory Gardens in cities were better and larger than in 1943 so that production was greater.

These are but some of the accomplishments of extension agents in 1944. The 4-H Clubs were depended on everywhere to help reach the wartime goals, and enrollment reached 1,700,000 members. Others, such as the organization of veterans' advisory committees in practically all counties, the salvage campaigns, and the fire-prevention work, have gone into making 1944 the busiest of Extension Service's 30 years.



# Working in a post-war world

CLAUDE R. WICKARD, Secretary of Agriculture

■ In this great war to preserve democracy, the land-grant colleges and the Extension Service are making a record to be proud of. They will face an equally great opportunity after victory is won.

Already they are showing a keen awareness of the task that lies ahead, and I particularly want to express my appreciation of the cooperation they have given to the post-war planning of the United States Department of Agriculture. The times ahead will call for the best efforts of all of us.

Agriculture will face some most difficult and complex problems in the years after the war. In that period, especially during the transition from a wartime to a peacetime economy, farmers will have more need than ever before for reliable information on production methods, marketing problems, and economic factors. The land-grant colleges can and should have a leading part in bringing farmers the kind of information they will need.

## Economic Problems Important

When the war is over farmers are again going to find themselves facing difficulties in the economic field, and perhaps the chief difficulty is the one we were wrestling with in the period between World War I and World War II. For want of a better term, let's call it the problem of matching consumption and production. There has been a long-standing debate on whether the economic ills of the farmer were due to overproduction or to underconsumption, and very probably that debate will continue.

Some economic problems, like production problems, are not simple and sometimes can be confusing even to a trained economist. But in the post-war world the individual must both understand economic problems and act on his knowledge.

First, it is important that the farmer understand what the economic situation is, so that he can plan his farming operations upon the basis of facts instead of doing it blindly. In the post-war period it is going to be just as important to know what to produce as it is to know how to produce it.

In the second place, it is necessary that the farmer have facts and information which will help him determine what kind of national agricultural action programs we are going to have. There is every reason to believe we shall need such programs for a long time to come; and there is ample evidence that we are going to have them unless we are so foolish as to adopt programs which are so useless and so obnoxious that the public rebels and discards them all. The important thing is that farmers are the ones who will decide what kind of program they are going to have.

Public opinion is the strongest force in our Nation. It writes our laws. It helps shape every successful administrative procedure and in the long run spells success or failure of the administration of every program. The only farm program that can be ultimately successful is one that farm people—and to a large degree the whole population—support wholeheartedly. They will support only a program they understand and believe in; and they will understand it more quickly and believe in it more deeply if they helped build it. As experience has shown so clearly, a sound farm program must be democratic.

We must see that our extension people are free to bring accurate and complete information to all the farm people. This freedom, of course, also carries with it the responsibility for fairly presenting both sides of controversial questions. Such freedom means extension workers must not be subject to any pressures which will interfere with their presentation of all of the facts, and nothing but the facts. The Extension Service must not be used as a sales or promotional agent for any particular commercial, political, or farm organization.

As many of you may know, I myself am a loyal member of more than one farm organization. As all of you know, the United States Department of Agriculture believes in farm organizations, encourages them, and works with them. But the Department does not work *for* them; years ago it found out that that helped neither the organization nor the Department. Nor should the Extension

Service be asked to do administrative work for any organization. If the Extension Service gets into that kind of work—and I am thinking of administering Federal agricultural programs along with other types of enterprise—it will not only have less time for education but it may well be prevented from giving all the facts.

I recall, back in my home community, how my friends and I were sometimes critical because we could not get more active support from the Extension Service for the cooperative organizations which we were trying to build. I also recall my disappointment, after I had gone to Washington, that the Extension Service sometimes did not take a more active part in some of the national farm programs. But after some years of experience and responsibility at about all levels of agricultural activity, I have come to see quite clearly that it is impossible to have an organization do a good job in the educational field while also having to do administrative work, sales work, or promotion work for any other interest or organization.

## Reaching All People

I wish especially to mention the fine work being done by some States in reaching all of the families on the land with education in agriculture and homemaking, and I hope the time soon will come when the work of all States will be up to that high level. It is most important to plan extension programs so as to reach those farms and families most in need of information. I am not unmindful of the difficulties involved in reaching such people, but where there is the most need there is the best opportunity to show achievement.

Before closing I wish to mention one other point, and that is the necessity for the land-grant colleges to plan to expand their activities so that they reach everyone who is in need of information concerning agriculture. We know that there is a need and a strong demand for more adult education in homemaking in our cities and towns. I think the land-grant colleges should supply that need. The Victory Garden programs have given us another illustration that interest in agriculture and horticulture doesn't stop at the corporate limits of our cities. The land-grant colleges should be prepared to satisfy urban interest in these matters.

## 4-H council on the beam for V-day

■ The remaining 4-H Council members in Mineral County, W. Va., are giving special attention to the 25 boys who have turned their 4-H training to the service of Uncle Sam in the various war theaters.

A "round-robin" letter writing project has been in operation for 2 years. Members choose from the list and then keep in touch with the boys by letter, gifts, and holiday cards. A 4-H Council scrapbook is being kept as a record of the service boys' activities and includes pictures, clippings, souvenirs sent by the boys and interesting letters received. The volume has grown and is the pride and joy of those responsible for compilation.

During county 4-H camp the last week in July, a "round-robin" letter was written to each boy by leaders and older club members. In the many replies to the county club agent, the boys expressed great pleasure in being remembered at an event most dear to their hearts—county 4-H camp.

A member of the Air Corps in Burma wrote: "It did my heart good to get the letter from my 4-H friends. My, but I would like to have been there! Guess I would have had to belong to the 'Big Foot Tribe (leaders')." From the South Pacific on an aircraft carrier: "The letter from the campers was deeply appreciated. No kidding, it is really a pleasant feeling to know that you're remembered no matter where you are. I really do intend to finish school when I get back and be a county agent." A member in Hawaii wrote: "I really appreciated the letter from camp. Good to know that you are missed and I shall never forget the good times at county 4-H camp." From a 4-H leader in Cairo came this word in his modest way: "Strangely, there appeared to be some people who remembered me in the 4-H Council when actually I had not accomplished too much except to love the 4-H very dearly. The larger thing was not what I did but what 4-H did for me. Something within me never reached full expression until it was unlocked through 4-H work. Never a single evening vesper service at sundown on

the hill, or a council circle at night have I sat in without having a great experience. It all lends to the 'volunteer' spirit. There may be other fellowships just like a good West Virginia 4-H Camp Council Circle but I haven't found them."

Thus far the only sadness that has befallen the "Twenty-five" is one lost in action, and one a prisoner of Japan, and the boys never forgot to ask of them in their letters.

Practically every branch of the service is represented, serving in most every part of the world: New Guinea, Saipan, Hawaii, Egypt, Burma, England, France, South Pacific, and some who are still in the States.

The boys are looking forward to a week of camp to be held after the war in which all council members will

take part, with the privilege of the boys asking one person as their guest. Extension agents and leaders have been asked to counsel with the group and take part in the program. It is to be a grand event as expressed in replies from those in armed forces: (1) "A grand council! I like that! It will really be a 'How-how' to be heard far and wide." (2) "That certainly is a swell idea—having a week of camping when we get back, I am in favor of it 100 percent! And I have not lost my taste for a good time with 4-H." (3) And still another one said: "Gosh! I can just visualize that grand 4-H Council. It may be sometime distant but we will have that reunion, and you can depend on me!"

The county club agent, Florence Howard, feels that this contact with older youth has formed a link of close friendship throughout the whole county 4-H program which will help the returning young folks adjust themselves.

## The late Director Woodward honored

■ The posthumous award of the Connecticut Medal for Distinguished Civilian War Service was made by Governor Raymond E. Baldwin of Connecticut to Mrs. Charles Hines,

daughter of the late Director Edwin G. Woodward. Director Woodward with his wife and grandson lost their lives in the Hartford circus fire of last summer.





# Help for "G. I. Joe"

■ Folks in Washington State are planning a big celebration "when Johnny comes marching home," but they are also doing something much more practical, too. For example, veteran advisory committees have been set up by the Agricultural Extension Service in every county in the State; and these committees are now getting practical, down-to-earth training on how to help "Johnny" find a good farm and make a success of it if he decides he wants to take up farming for a livelihood.

Serving on these county committees are the county agent and experienced farmers who know what it means to carry a heavy debt load and pay it off. Successful businessmen and leaders of various Federal, State, and private organizations are also represented.

A State advisory committee has been organized to give counsel to Extension Service. On this State committee are representatives of five farm organizations, railway agriculture agents, a representative of the Washington Realty Association, and members of State and Federal agencies. They, too, were called together by the Extension Service.

The State Veteran Advisory Committee has already formulated a five-point program and is preparing to answer the questions the experienced veteran or war worker will want answered before he starts farming.

At the top of their five-point program is land classification. As good soil is the basis for successful farming, soil studies and farm management surveys are being made, and economic land-classification maps prepared. The maps show the economic level in the different sections of the county and classify the sections as to their farming value. The surveys classify not only present farm lands but locate potential new farm areas suitable for development by land clearing, diking, drainage, and irrigation.

This economic land-classification work has already been completed in five western Washington counties, and work is under way for the mapping of nearly every county.

County agents are getting special training through district conferences which were held throughout the State

by representatives of the State College, the Soil Conservation Service, Farm Credit Administration, and State Planning Council.

The second point on their program is that all realtors in Washington file listings of farms for sale or lease with the county agents for reference when G. I. Joe starts looking for the farm he wants. Negotiations for sale of such listings, of course, would be between the prospect and the realtor.

Their third point will be to direct settlement efforts to family-size commercial farm units on land classes of one to three.

Fourth—that rural residences be located near jobs if the operators take up 1 to 2 acres of land on classifications numbered four or better.

And, five, that a high standard of living be maintained by encouraging economic family-size farms on soils suitable to full-time farming.

## Veterans Need Help

Of course these committees realize that it isn't the veteran who was brought up on a farm and returns to his home community who will need help. The boys and other prospective settlers who are going into agriculture in an unfamiliar area are those that the committees want to help. Not all veterans will be urged to buy land immediately. The committees agree that many of them should work on farms first—in the counties where they want to settle—and learn how to do a good job of farming. A short course in agriculture at college will be suggested for others.

Others with only limited funds may be advised to lease a good farm, whereas those with more money will be assisted to settle on land that has a good prospect of succeeding. Many present operators are over age and may lease or sell farms.

The State College has already printed one bulletin on this subject. The bulletin, *Suggestions to Prospective Farmers*, is now available to prospective farmers at offices of county agents. A second, more complete bulletin will be available later this fall; and it, too, will be distributed through the agents' offices.

When G. I. Joe comes back, then, he can go to his advisory committee to find out what types of farming are

successful in his area, what opportunities there are for taking over a successful farm, where he can get a job on a farm or lease one, what the opportunities are on new irrigated or cut-over lands, and what size and type of farm he needs to make his enterprise successful. These committees are getting things ready to help the veteran with his future.

It is evident that the demand for land in the State greatly exceeds the present supply. The Columbia Basin project will eventually care for a good part of this demand when it becomes available about 3 years after construction begins.

## Wyoming 20-year contests

Two contests, made possible by a gift of \$6,000 donated by W. C. Deming of Cheyenne, Wyo., former president of the University Board of Trustees, will be conducted by the University of Wyoming for a period of 20 years through the Agricultural Extension Service, according to W. O. Edmondson, agricultural extension forester and horticulturist.

The money will be awarded in the amount of \$300 per year to farm and ranch people in Wyoming who make outstanding records in planting and caring for trees for protection and utility, and to those who do a good job in landscaping their yards and surroundings by way of cleaning up, painting, planting, or in any other way making the farm or ranch more homelike and attractive.

Hundreds of Wyoming farm and ranch families have made improvements around their homes during the last 15 years, but Mr. Deming feels that the contest will encourage increased activity in home improvement.

The \$300 per year will be divided among nine winners in the State, three who have made the greatest progress in yard improvement and planting and six who have made the greatest progress in planting trees. Prizes are to be awarded to the best tree plantings on both dry and irrigated land.

Homer Gard, who lives near Cheyenne, Wyo., was the winner of the first prize for his shelterbelt plantings in 1943. He reports that he has invested the prize money in war bonds for his son who is in the service in the South Pacific war zone.

# A cow county thinks ahead

■ With a fine disregard of the usual and the expected, the 135 non-conformists who compose the post-war planning committee in Grant County, N. Mex., are setting a pattern that other counties might well follow. They're having their problem, all right. It's sometimes difficult for a stockman, farmer, industrialist, and labor leader to see eye to eye. An election year has brought its share of troubles, and a German paper hanger is being none too cooperative.

Of course, the real test of the planning will come after Japan's sun sets, as the committeemen are the first to admit. In the meantime, however, they can show a half million dollars' worth of city plans for flood control and water-system improvements, \$100,000 in cash that will go for increasing the county's recreational facilities, and a bank account of \$1,600 that the county commissioners have appropriated for furthering post-war plans.

## Committee Includes Many Groups

The committee includes educators, farmers, stockmen, industrialists, lawyers, bankers, businessmen, and representatives of the CIO and the A. F. of L., ex-servicemen's groups, the chamber of commerce, the county commissioners, the city government, and civic clubs. In the background is Stuart Stirling, a county agent since World War I.

It's a whopping big committee but, as Cap Stirling says, no bigger than the county's post-war problems. There are specialists on this committee—men who can develop Grant's treasure vault of metals, men who know financial and production trends, men who have the answers to questions involving water rights and rights concerning interstate streams. No, the committee is not too big.

The Grant County group developed from the desire of community leaders to answer returning veterans' questions. They wanted to be able to tell a veteran where he could get a job rather than how many jobs he was qualified for if he could get them. The emphasis is still on the ex-soldier, but the planning doesn't stop there. It is now concerned with all the post-war problems of Grant County—a

county three times as large as Rhode Island, with 618 farms, a cattle population of 60,000 head, and mines producing \$40,000,000 worth of essential metals every year.

The problems and projects are as big as the county. From the first, the committeemen vowed they wouldn't beat a trail to Washington and yelp for help every time they ran into a blind canyon. The United States would have troubles enough, they thought, without playing papa to every cow town in New Mexico.

"One of the best ways to avoid the necessity for national paternalism is to solve our problems right at the grass roots," Mr. Stirling says. "And I believe that if every county had such a clearinghouse as ours, the Nation would have a powerful bulwark against post-war depression.

One of the immediate gains of the committee was an increased awareness of the problems the Nation must face after the war, for Grant's problems are the Nation's problems in microcosm. They're all there, the potential tension between capital and labor, the threat of falling prices and city streets filled again with idle men, conflicting interests of industry and agriculture, and all the thousand and one goals that are expected to make the prosperity of the future. Post-war plans become a good deal like a jigsaw puzzle—with each industry playing a part in completing it.

It's important for a great many people to think about the problems that peace is certain to bring. "Unless we're prepared," Stuart Stirling says, "we can go into a psychological depression just as real and bitter as a depression caused by deflation and the lack of markets."

There are two highly encouraging signs: No one has accepted his responsibilities reluctantly, and the committee members are getting along and sharing problems. Out of this cooperation have already come some important projects that can change the face of Grant County. To illustrate, the farm subcommittee's principal problem is a flood-control dam on the upper Gila which will cost approximately 10 million dollars. Spreaders on the stream's tributaries



Here is Stuart Stirling, Grant County extension agent and western director of the County Agents' Association. The photographer was—of all people—Assistant Director Reuben Brigham.

will probably cost an additional million dollars.

The county livestock association has tentative plans for a 22-section demonstration ranch at the veterans' hospital at Fort Bayard. If the dream comes true, the ranch will mean a practical education for many a returning veteran, as well as work for all the agricultural agencies. Like the other subcommittees, the livestock group is also building an impressive work pile. Most of the plans are aimed at more efficient beef production. When the war is over, the Grant Soil Conservation District is definitely going to town.

There's a long, tough fight ahead; but when the returning soldier enters Cap Stirling's office, he won't feel like the adopted child of a national disaster. He wants to go back to school, into industry, farming, business, or ranching? Grant County will have the answers and for that reason Grant will be happier and more prosperous.

■ To help Richmond County, Ga., farm women, Melba Sparks, home demonstration agent, has made available a list of supplies of seed, plants, insecticides, and dust and spray guns which can be purchased in local stores.



# 593 sewing machines cleaned and adjusted



A sewing-machine clinic in Westport, Mass.

■ Incomplete returns from 93 scattered communities in 11 New Mexico counties prove to the satisfaction of Veda A. Strong, extension home management specialist, that sewing machine cleaning has been one of the top demonstrations of the year.

To get the sewing machine clinics under way, Miss Strong attended 17 meetings with home demonstration agents. There the members of extension women's clubs had a chance to participate in an effective demonstration of how to clean, oil, and adjust a sewing machine—the type of work that sewing machine companies have had little time for since the war began.

The club members took over from there, cleaning 292 machines under the supervision of home demonstration agents at meetings in 11 New Mexico counties—Colfax, Curry, Dona Ana, Grant, Lea, Quay, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, San Miguel, Union, and Valencia. It is difficult to estimate the number of machines cleaned as a follow-up to the meetings; women do have a way of talking, and sometimes

when they have run through the top news, they talk about housework. Incomplete reports from 7 counties, however, list 301 machines that have been thoroughly cleaned and adjusted, making a total of 593 sewing machines now better prepared to keep clothes patched.

The comment of Clytice Ross, home demonstration agent in Dona Ana County, is typical of what the women in the field think of the clinic: "Some club members thought it was the best demonstration they had ever attended. Many of them have told me that their machines hadn't been cleaned since they've had them. That means that some machines have had to wait from 12 to 15 years for this demonstration."

## A unique tour

The Lazy River 4-H Club of Little-rock, Wash., recently varied their usual program by a trip to the Thurston Extension office. Ten club members, 2 guests, and their leaders, Mrs. Vern Bay and Mrs. Martha Walsh, met

at the courthouse and proceeded to the office where, first, Mrs. Adair, receptionist, told something of the number of people served through the office by the county Extension Service and the A.A.A. Arrangement of bulletin material and methods of circulating it were explained.

Next, J. D. McGuire, chairman of the U. S. D. A. War Board and the AAA, briefly outlined the work of his department, explaining farm plans for AAA "sign-up," some problems of rationing supplies and equipment, and so on.

Allan Johnson, county agent, discussed his work, showing various ways of disseminating information on good farming practices and explaining the position of the county agent as a contact person between the State agricultural college, the experiment station, and the farmers of the county.

In the office of Byerg Benson, home demonstration agent, the work of the Extension Service in home economics was outlined. The service includes giving out available information on homemaking problems. In cases where new problems arise for which no information is available, the problems are referred to the research facilities of the State college for study and solution. Dairy herd-improvement work being carried on by Floyd Davis, supervisor of the dairy herd-improvement association, was also explained.

## Trees planted

Despite manpower shortages, 150,000 trees were set out on forest croplands in Iron County, Wis., last spring. The county board reported that this had been accomplished without interfering with farm production or other vital war work.

County Agent W. H. Henthorn drew on two sources for the labor to get the trees planted. Town chairmen in each part of the county submitted the names of people in their communities who could afford the spare time for the planting. About 30 men, among them a man 86 years old, reported for work between April 28 and May 26.

Meanwhile, the county superintendent of schools contacted high school principals and arranged for 30 senior boys to spend from 1 to 5 days planting trees.



# Agents broadcast in two languages

■ Because a bilingual program—half Spanish and half English—was the only solution to extension radio problems in San Miguel County, N. Mex., the county agents now have a program that is unique in American radio work.

When County Agent Ernest Gutierrez or Home Agent Celina Gutierrez—no relation here—steps up to the mike, there is a potential audience of 10,000 English-speaking people and 15,000 Spanish-speaking people in San Miguel County alone. And the Las Vegas station, KFUN, looks on all of northeastern New Mexico as its province.

Tune in on KFUN Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock, and after the opening announcement you'll hear County Agent Ernest say: "Hens that are on a stand-up strike certainly are not entitled to any feed. In fact, they should be considered saboteurs and dealt with accordingly."

For 7½ minutes he discusses the importance of continuous culling of nonlaying hens, the characteristics of the typical cull, and approved poultry-management practices. Then there is a pause, and all over San Miguel another audience becomes attentive. In farm and ranch houses out in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristos, in the rolling mesa country of Mora County, perhaps even as far north as the Colorado line, little groups draw closer to their radios, pull up their chairs, tune out the static. "*Pronto*," they say; "*si, pronto*."

It's the same voice, but now County Agent Ernest is speaking Spanish, reaching out toward that other audience: "*Gallinas que están en huelga parada seguramente no están entituladas a ningún a comida. Por lo tanto, tal individas debían ser consideradas como traidoras y tratadas según esto*."

He goes over the material again, his problems still the same: To help the farmers get more *huevos* from fewer *gallinas*.

Home Agent Celina uses the same technique: Seven and a half minutes in English and then the same script in Spanish. Agricultural news, new methods, improved practices, hints for the homemaker, campaigns—anything is grist for the extension radio mill.

Does it work? "*Ah si, señor*." Questions, letters, visits from farm and ranch people who've heard a subject discussed and want to know more about it—this is adequate proof. So are the enthusiastic comments of the Spanish-American audience. Even more convincing is Station KFUN's approval of the bilingual program which has been on the air every week for 3 years. Radio stations may occasionally bet on the wrong horse, but they seldom make a 3-year habit of it.

A final bit of evidence—perhaps the best of all—is the way a campaign

## Market fills a need

■ Labor difficulties were given as the reason why the farm market at Mount Hope, Fayette County, W. Va., did not have an increase in number of producers this year; but it held its own in 1944 and served a useful purpose, says County Agent J. H. Miller.

The 12 to 15 persons who used the market last year sold more than \$1,500 worth of produce. Mrs. C. H. McCoy's sales totaled \$300. Farmers of 5 neighborhoods used the market which was located on a vacant lot in the middle of the town. Sometimes 3, 4, or 5 families would send their produce to market in one truck.

Through the market the people have sold products they were not able to sell before, such as blackberries, cream, flowers, and other items. As a result, they will plant more small fruits and truck crops and raise more poultry and some cows, Mr. Miller believes.

Selling is from 4 to 7 p. m. instead of in the morning, and the folks never have to carry any of their products back home with them.

The market came into being when the Pax farm club, after discussing the possibilities of growing more truck crops for a year or so, last year made a successful attempt to interest the Lions Club of Mount Hope in a market. A committee from the club and a committee from Pax met with Mr. Miller. Each person present was made responsible for seeing other persons, getting products to market, and letting folks who would be interested know about the market.

Local leaders at Pax got their

goes over in San Miguel County. For example, as chairman of the salvage board, County Agent Ernest recently led a scrap-metal drive, doing much of the work in the rural areas through his radio program. It was the rural school children who put the drive over, collecting most of the \$6,000 worth of scrap metal. Their reward was a check for \$1,116 to buy badly needed playground equipment.

The two extension agents plan to go on with their radio work; and those who are seeking scientific information—farmers or *agricultores*, ranchers or *rancheros*, cowpoke or *vaqueros*—know that KFUN has the answer.

groups together, arranged for transportation, and saw that there was a large amount of produce for sale. Lists of the products for sale were distributed in Mount Hope. In the meantime, the Lions Club had made support of the market a work project. As a result, 50 buyers were on hand when the selling began that first Saturday morning, July 17, 1943, at 9 o'clock.

"Local leaders planned the project from both ends and gave everyone a task to do," said Mr. Miller. "This is where leadership of both block and neighborhood leaders came in."

The market has become a joint project of the Mount Hope Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, City Council, and the local leaders at Pax and Packs Branch.

At one of its weekly meetings, the Lions Club entertained the people who sell at the farm market.

"The market has brought together the town and country folks and has been the means of working on other projects such as roads, youth problems, farmers' store, and other problems," said the county agent.

AN OMAHA RADIO STATION did a good turn in entertaining and feeding about 1,200 youths participating in 4-H activities at the Nebraska State Fair this year. The Army cooked the hot evening meal in the 4-H arena on field kitchen stoves to add a bit of color to the event. Lyle DeMoss, program manager of WOW, was in charge of the evening program.



## Extension agents join fighting forces

Nine extension workers have made the supreme sacrifice. More than 1,300 extensioners serve their country in the armed forces. These men and women are in many parts of the world and in various branches of the service. Sometimes their experiences are a far cry from those of pre-war days. News of their doings and excerpts from their letters are printed on this page.

### Extension's Gold Stars

J. L. Daniels, formerly assistant county agent in Madison County, Ala., died, as a result of wounds received at Guadalcanal, in December 1942. He was in the Marines.

Lt. A. D. Curlee, formerly county agent in Alabama, Army, killed in action April 6, 1943.

Ensign Tom Parkinson, formerly assistant county agent in Henry County, Ind., Navy, missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.

Capt. Frank C. Shipman, of Nebraska, Army, killed in action.

1st Lt. Leo M. Tupper, of Nebraska, Army, killed in action.

William Flake Bowles, formerly assistant agent in Watauga County, N. C., Army, reported missing in action on the Italian front.

Ensign Robert H. Bond, of the Federal Extension staff, Washington, D. C., Navy, reported missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.

Capt. J. B. Holton, formerly county agent in La Salle Parish, La., was killed in action in Europe during the invasion, June 9.

Capt. Frank Wayne, formerly county agent in Bernalillo County, N. Mex., killed in a vehicle accident in England.

### With invasion troops

Flying one of the first unarmored paratroop-carrying C-53's into northern France was Maj. Leroy M. Stanton, formerly assistant county agent in Nash County, N. C. Stanton led a flight of Ninth Troop Carrier Command planes in the spearheading on the D-Day invasion. He is assistant operations officer for this combat wing.

Immediately following the initial paratroop drop, Stanton followed up with a glider mission. In telling of his experiences, he said: "On the take-off, the right engine billowed flames for a few heart-breaking minutes, but this was easily extinguished. We climbed to 1,500 feet, with beautiful weather all the way over—full moon and cloudless sky. When we crossed the still-peaceful invasion coast, however, the visibility was bad. We managed to keep formation in the cloud banks—flying on instruments.

"When we came out of the stuff, the sky seemed alive with red and green tracers—like a giant Christmas tree. Our boys went over the sides, couldn't have missed the target—the area was so plainly marked."

After an uneventful return to his base and a few hours sleep, the group was prepared for a glider mission. Stanton again carried his men to the exact spot where they were to land; and, returning, he said: "We skimmed over the channel so low that we got stiff necks looking up at the battle-ships."

### Rain

There is not much to say for Burma, at least the part where I am. Rain, mud, and jungle sum up the story completely. I know you folks back in the "Old Country" have been getting lots of rain this spring, but the World Almanac states that we get the most—well, nearly the most of any place in the world. It's so wet here that our clothes never dry. As the sun seldom shines, we are forced to put them on whenever they quit dripping. It's so wet here that of late, because of the mud, I have been going to bed with my rubber boots on. But all joking aside, though, if I were from any place but Kansas, I'd object, but after '34 and '36 it will never rain too much for me.

It sounds as if you had another useful Farm and Home Week this year. While I was in India I felt that the people there could stand a little extension work; but, on the other hand, I would hesitate to recommend too much or too radical a change. These boys have been farming the same way for thousands of years and, surprising as it is, are able to scrape up a living, meager as it is. To change their farming principles too much would throw the whole deal out of balance.

I'm still in veterinary work and, considering the circumstances, like it O. K.—"Teekak" as the natives say it.—Orville Burtis, formerly Hodge-man County agent, Kansas.

### THE ROLL CALL

(Continued from last month)

#### NEBRASKA

Lt. (j.g.) Royce W. Fish, Webster County agent, Navy.

Ens. Melvin H. Kreifels, assistant county agent at large, Navy.

Lt. (j.g.) L. V. Peterson, Hamilton County agent, Navy.



# Farming in Alaska

■ Director Lorin T. Oldroyd brought news of far-off Alaska, which does not seem so far away when you know that Director Oldroyd could eat his breakfast at his home in Fairbanks one morning and in St. Paul, Minn. the next morning. Air travel makes the difference and is one of the reasons he is looking forward to greater development of Alaskan resources after the war.

Many soldiers stationed in Alaska are now taking up homesteads in the Territory. Perhaps several hundred people, both soldiers and civilians, in Fairbanks, have staked out their claims, and about 75 requests are received each week, mostly from men in the service, asking for more information on settling in Alaska. Director Oldroyd tells them they won't get rich quick as Alaskan farmers; but there is a good living there for those who are hardy, are willing to learn how to farm up there, and are not afraid of hard work.

## How to Live in Alaska

The new settlers make many demands on home demonstration agents, too, for information on how to live in Alaska. Gardening and the use of local products have received special attention in the home demonstration program. In the Fairbanks office, nearly 6,000 people have attended meetings, more than 2,000 have called at the office, and more than 2,000 called by telephone up to October of last year.

The wartime influx of people to Alaska has brought prosperity to the Matanuska Valley colony. All the cleared land is planted to crops, and all the farms are occupied. The amount of business handled by the Matanuska Valley Cooperative Association has grown from less than \$100,000 to nearly \$1,500,000 within the past 3 years. The production of potatoes has increased from a few hundred tons to between 3,000 and 4,000 tons. There are some 6,000 acres planted to potatoes this year, with an estimated yield of 5 tons per acre. The Army furnishes a ready market at present for all the farmers can grow.

During the first 8 months of 1944, more than 1,700 persons visited the

office of County Agent William Rogers at Palmer to ask questions about their dairies, hogs, chickens, gardens, and potatoes. In addition, the agent traveled more than 2,700 miles by car and made 349 farm visits, which number represents a personal call on each farmer in the valley. Farm and Home Week brought out about 60 men and women each day to discuss country life in the Matanuska Valley and various problems of food production and preservation.

4-H Club work flourishes among the young folks. In the Anchorage district, 240 members are working in 25 clubs under the direction of Hazel Zimmerman, district agent and Territorial 4-H Club leader.

In response to the call for increased food production, farmers have planted nearly every acre of cleared land in the Tanana Valley. Potatoes were planted on 250 acres, with an estimated yield of 1,000 tons, which will mostly be sold to the Army. In the vicinity of Fairbanks, 380 Victory Gardens produced needed vegetables. The roll call of gardeners at Fairbanks, Anchorage, Homer, Seward, Nenana, and villages of the interior reported more than 2,000 gardens.

Farmers who are taking up more land in the vicinity of Anchorage have a good market for their potatoes and vegetables at the army base at Kodiak Island.

## Work With Native Eskimo Women

To intensify the work in gardening and food preservation, six emergency war food assistants worked with the five members of the regular staff. An interesting phase of the work was that carried on among native Eskimo women and girls by Louise Davis, borrowed for the summer from the Indian Bureau school at Eklutna. With Eskimo heritage, herself, she was very successful in the native villages. She found three pressure cookers and gave demonstrations on how to can greens and carrots. She also taught the girls how to bake bread and make 3-minute patches. Her work, when many times all of the women in the village attended, was so effective that it is planned to employ her again next summer.

The Alaskan potato harvest brought a labor emergency which required the help of soldiers, women, and school children, but the potatoes were harvested. Another emergency job was the harvesting of a ton of vegetables for school lunches, done with the help of 20 seventh graders.

Distances are great and travel is difficult in Alaska—one of the best ways to reach the people is the radio. The weekly program, Airways to Agriculture, is an important channel for the extension program. The people have learned to know the voice of Director Oldroyd and Mrs. Fohn-Hansen, territorial home demonstration agent. One day as Director Oldroyd entered a hotel dining room he was talking, and a little boy at a nearby table spoke up brightly, "Listen, Mamma, it's the radio man."

## Agent becomes commanding officer

Lt. Ruth E. Pullen, formerly home demonstration agent in New Hampshire, is making good in the WAC. She was one of two WAC officers in the First Troop Carrier Command to be appointed to attend the Command and General Staff school at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and upon completion of her work there became commanding officer of Squadron "B." the WAC detachment at Pope Field, N. C., base of the First Troop Carrier Command. Lt. Pullen was commissioned in the first WAAC class at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.



# This concerns you and yours

## ■ This Concerns You and Yours.

That was the heading on the rural questionnaire sent to 2,500 farm homes in Crawford County, Iowa, by a citizens' committee of which County Extension Agent Paul A. Johnson was chairman. It was one of several questionnaires that were prepared by, and sent to, Crawford County folks. The purpose of all these was to find out what the conditions in the county would be when the 1,700 men and women in the armed services and the 1,100 who were in war industries returned to the county. Questionnaires also went to those in the armed services and war industries to find out how many planned to return and what they were planning to do when released from war activities.

It was decided early that planning ahead should make it unnecessary for Crawford County to repeat the experiences that followed World War I, that the confusion and duties of those days need not be repeated, that knowledge could be obtained as to trends and plans made accordingly. Leaders in the county read what Hamilton County (Iowa) committees had done, also of the Albert Lea, Minn., and Stevens Point, Wis., surveys. They decided that Crawford County also could do this; that they owed it to those on the fighting lines to see that it was done.

### Survey Planned

First steps were undertaken by President Thurman Aarestedt of the Denison Chamber of Commerce. Meetings of committees of this organization decided to make a thorough survey of the city of Denison. The extension program-planning committee of the county had met early in the year and authorized a rural community survey to be undertaken by the County Farm Bureau. The County Civilian Defense Committee, through its chairman, Floyd Page, and with the cooperation and help of the Denison Chamber of Commerce and the County Farm Bureau, held a county-wide meeting. Delegates from all communities in the county attended, also of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Plans were made to set up post-war planning organizations in each community in

the county. The meeting also elected a county executive committee and named county-wide committees to plan the rural survey and the survey of those in the armed services and in war industry.

The Denison Chamber of Commerce prepared, printed, and circulated two sets of questionnaires; one to all business firms to find out what they were planning to do when the end of fighting came, and one to all householders to find out first what community improvements were most needed, and second what improvements or purchases they planned to make when priorities were removed. A well-organized group of volunteer workers distributed and collected these surveys, which are now being summarized. It is of interest to note that a community hospital ranked first in needed improvements, also that new cars ranked ahead of everything else in new equipment to be purchased. The demand for building mechanics would utilize a lot of labor for several years if building materials were available. Most local employers of labor were planning on expanding their business and hiring more labor. With many farmers planning to retire and move to town, there would be a demand for homes that could be met only by an extensive building program.

The service men's questionnaire was allotted by the central committee to the American Legion and V. F. W. Posts, with Nels Jensen as chairman, and placed in the hands of local committees to obtain mailing addresses and send out and receive replies. It was felt that there would be the best possible response when these came from and were returned to the local committees.

The rural committee, of which Paul A. Johnson was chairman, prepared and sent out the rural questionnaire. Four hundred and sixty replies, representing every township in the county, were received (about one-sixth of those sent out). These are being summarized, using a weighted average by townships of replies received to questionnaires mailed. Assistance in summarizing these and also the community and service men questionnaires has been promised by

the U. S. D. A. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which is also carrying on a survey in the county.

The purpose of all this is that "there shall be a place in the community for those who fought for their country."

Very briefly summarized, the rural survey showed the following: One farmer in 10 plans to retire and have his son carry on the farming as soon as the war ends; one farm out of 6 has boys who will return to farm; farmers indicate that about 1,100 returning men can be employed on farms of the county; more than half the farms of the county (now without electricity) plan to have it as soon as high lines are built; 80 percent of farmers replying favored a crop adjustment and crop loan farm program; 35 percent of those replying were ready to have good land use program plans drawn up for their farms; and, although they were not now farming that way, they were now ready to start contour farming.

### Demand for New Equipment

Some other highlights were that there would be a demand for 700 new tractors, 350 manure spreaders; 250 new discs; 200 new plows; 300 new corn pickers; 600 electric refrigerators; 120 new furnaces; 120 water systems; 140 new homes; half the farmers in the county planned to build new buildings, repair old ones, and build new as well as repair old fences. One farmer out of 4 planned to purchase farm land. In listing soil-conservation practices approved, they were ranked as follows: (1) Seeding grasses and legumes, (2) gully-control structures, (3) contouring, (4) liming acid soil, (5) tree planting, (6) soil-conservation plan for farm, (7) terracing.

More than 50 percent of replies received favored a law by which heavy earth-moving equipment now owned by the Government and used for war construction be turned over to soil conservation districts to build soil-saving structures and terraces.

Good farm-to-market roads came first in the minds of rural folks as needed public improvements. Next was assistance in control of noxious weeds.

In Crawford County there has been no project upon which so much volunteer cooperation has been so willingly



given as in this post-war planning. Local newspapers have given freely of their front-page space, and local newspapermen have given freely of their time in preparing articles to unite all the people of the county in backing the program. Local leaders out in the rural communities have also

done a grand job in explaining the need for the work and obtaining cooperation. It is a big job, a continuing job, with but one goal; and that is to avert, if possible, the distress and confusion that will surely result if carefully made plans are not carried out by action.

## A culling blitz in Wisconsin

■ In past years we have conducted the conventional type of culling meeting in Wisconsin. Last year I tried JIT on the juniors to assure a supply of local cullers. Neither of those seemed to give the coverage or demand the publicity that was needed this year when we were confronted with the necessity of reducing poultry numbers.

The idea of a culling blitz was conceived—a meeting in every township in a county on 1 day. Twenty-six counties from the more densely populated section of the State were selected. The idea was sold to the agents by letter and personal call.

Three meetings per day were held—10 a. m., 1 p. m., and 3 p. m. Meetings were conducted by the agent, his assistant, sometimes the home demonstration agent, hatchery operators, feed dealers, and Smith-Hughes teachers.

A place of meeting in each township was selected, and card invitations were sent to everyone interested in the community.

Prizes were donated by commercial agencies for the largest attendance, ducky draw, or on some such basis.

Those holding the demonstrations were interviewed, either the preceding evening or early the morning of the blitz in that county. We agreed on procedure. We stressed only pigmentation, molt, and present laying condition. Lice and mite control, handling broody hens, and the use of the built-up litter were discussed.

Publicity was obtained by radio, news article, and issuance of the personal invitations.

The results showed 494 demonstrations held, with 7,211 in attendance, and 156 different people conducted demonstrations which caused 550,000 hens to be sold as culls.

Each person attending these meetings was asked to contact neighbors

at community gatherings, or by telephone and stress the need for culling.

The willingness to help, which we found on the part of persons in associated fields was impressive. The hatcherymen and feed men contributed time and cars without cost in a most cooperative manner. It brought home to me the fact that if the job is big enough and the necessity acute enough, we can find help to put it over.

A briefed set of culling directions, cartooned "Lay or Lie," were distributed by the feed dealers in each county the day of the culling blitz.—*Gerald Amin, poultry management specialist, Wisconsin.*

## Cattlemen back grub control

E. P. Keetch, a prominent cattleman, called at my office in Bear Lake County, Idaho, to talk over aspects of the livestock conservation program. He was especially interested in the control of cattle grubs and Bang's disease in 1944. Mr. Keetch told me about the meeting of the cattle association, of which he is president, and said that the question arose as to how many of the members were in favor of treating for cattle grubs this year as they did in 1943. Everyone at the meeting voted for treatment of the 2,300 head which make up the herd pastured on the Little Blackfoot River pasture.

"The cattlemen from Soda Springs," he continued, "were pasturing cattle just across the fence from us. They wanted to know what we did to our cattle so that they would eat their fill and then lie down in the open or wherever they might be. The Soda Springs cattle would eat in the cool of the day and then run for the shade when it began to get warm. Our

stock could be observed feeding peacefully while cattle in nearby pastures were running their heads off."

Mr. Peterson, the forest ranger from Soda Springs, witnessed this condition and asked Mr. Keetch what had been done to the cattle to prevent their running.

The cattlemen on the Dry Valley Range are also treating this year. We want to treat once here in the valley and then again just as the cattle go on the range.

Other cattlemen have given me much the same information as did Mr. Keetch. I know from talking with the county agent from Soda Springs that they have ordered a spray machine so that they can begin treatment this year.

My hat is off to the progressive cattlemen who in 1943 were willing to take advantage of a good practice when they saw it and cleared the road for others to follow.—*Vance T. Smith, county agent, Bear Lake County, Idaho.*

## Fair shows labor-saving equipment

Farmers at the Jefferson County, Wis., fair exhibited the home-made machinery that helped them meet urgent demands of a heavy crop season.

County Agent George Wright, superintendent of the exhibit, had charge of assembling buck rakes, self-feeders, motor set-ups, and other devices with which farmers met the farm labor shortage.

A number of such devices were worked out at machinery schools throughout Jefferson County last winter.

■ Ten short courses in food preservation have been conducted in Greene County, Ga., by Nelle Thrash, county home demonstration agent. Through these demonstrations she reached 10 club groups, 8 home demonstration clubs, a federated women's club, and a garden club.

■ For his outstanding work among farm youth groups, Everett Mitchell, NBC's Voice of the Dairy Farmer, was made an honorary member of the National 4-H Club during his visit to the Lake County Fair at Crown Point, Ind.



# Flashes

## FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion J. Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

■ **Dehydration marches on.** Though we don't hear quite so much about dehydrated foods as we did earlier in the war, it is not because they have been dropped. Dehydrated foods continue to be sent to our armed forces and through lend-lease in large quantities, and research to perfect methods and products goes on steadily without fanfare.

The Western Regional Research Laboratory at Albany, Calif., is continuing to study procedures for compressing dehydrated vegetables. Compression saves space in shipping in addition to the space and weight saved by dehydration itself. Further improvement of the palatability and keeping quality of dehydrated vegetables, fruit, and eggs is constantly being sought through improvements in processing equipment and techniques, packaging materials and methods, storage conditions, and tests to determine the effects of processing, especially on vitamin retention.

Dehydrating meat reduces its weight 60 to 70 percent, and subsequent compression reduces the volume 65 to 73 percent. Thus the saving in both weight and bulk is approximately two-thirds of the original quantity of boned and trimmed meat. Compressing the meat also improves its keeping quality. Meat dehydration methods developed under the leadership of the Department have enabled the United States to produce and ship to Russia more than 30 million pounds of dehydrated meat, mostly pork, which has been used mainly by the Russian Army.

Three publications on dehydrated foods have recently been issued by the Department. Vegetable and Fruit Dehydration, Miscellaneous Publication 540, is a manual for plant operators, as its subtitle indicates. Meat Dehydration, Circular 706, gives the results of studies conducted by the Agricultural Research Administration as a special war project in cooperation

with the American Meat Institute, the University of Chicago, and other agencies. An attractive pamphlet, *Cooking Dehydrated Vegetables*, AIS-8, prepared by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, gives directions for preparing for the table all the dehydrated vegetables that are likely to be available in the stores or dried at home.

■ **Turkeys tailored to fit.** Today's small families and small ovens have not the capacity to cope with 20-pound turkeys, even on Thanksgiving or Christmas. In order that Americans need not forego the traditional feast, poultry scientists of the Department have developed the Beltsville Small White turkey, which just fits modern roasting pans. Dressed weights of these birds range from 5 to 12 pounds. They have compact bodies with legs and necks short in proportion but with plenty of meat on the breast and drumsticks. Ten years of breeding research went into the development of the Beltsville Small White. Several varieties of turkeys were crossed to obtain it, including wild turkeys, the Black turkey, the Narragansett, and the imported White Austrian. Eggs and breeding stock have been distributed among cooperating State institutions and through them to experienced turkey breeders. The prospect is that large numbers of small-type turkeys will be on the market in the near future.

■ **Sleek and tough.** A new type of protective coating for wood, metal, paper, textiles, and other surfaces, made from starches or sugars of farm crops, has been developed at the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory. The product is known as allyl starch, because it is prepared by treating starch with allyl chloride or allyl bromide. Other carbohydrates also can be treated in the same way to produce the coating material which, after being "cured" is resistant to

high temperatures (up to 400° F. in some tests), acids, alcohol, alkalis, gasoline, and most other chemicals and solvents. The coating looks like varnish, is transparent, and has a high gloss and a hard, smooth surface. The discovery promises to open a new field for the industrial utilization of surplus starches and sugars of agricultural crops.

■ **"Man-made" infections.** Just as man causes many destructive forest fires by his carelessness, he often spreads infection among his livestock. As an example of the trouble he can unwittingly cause, the Bureau of Animal Industry has accumulated data on cases in which anaplasmosis, a serious disease of cattle, was spread by unsterilized instruments used in performing routine operations such as dehorning and vaccination. Anaplasmosis is especially easy to spread in this way because animals that have recovered from the disease and show no sign of infection may be carriers. In the investigation, of 3,000 cattle that underwent various minor operations, 355 developed anaplasmosis traceable to unclean instruments. Diseases spread in this way are wholly preventable through observing sanitary precautions.

## Nutrition courses

By using the portable kitchen in the county trailer, nutrition short courses have been given in outlying communities of Dougherty County, Ga. The courses included instruction in ways of preparing foods in each of the "basic seven" groups, according to Mrs. F. M. Griner, county home demonstration agent.

■ How to make something new from something old will be the principal theme of home furnishing lessons presented to leaders of home economics clubs in Michigan this fall and winter by Jessie Marion and Mrs. Alice Bartlett, home furnishing specialists of Michigan State College.

The classes to be conducted in all counties in the State, began in Bay City, Bay County, October 3. Each county has selected one lesson from a list of seven which includes: How to repair spring unit cushions, home-made and remodeled furniture, the wonders of a coat of paint, arranging furniture, making rugs and mats, recovering lamp shades, and conserving chairs with pads and protectors.



# Among Ourselves

■ **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE** in the extension field was recognized in October at the annual meeting of Epsilon Sigma Phi, the national honorary extension fraternity made up of those who have been extension workers for 10 years or more. 1944 Certificates of Recognition were given for outstanding contributions to agriculture and rural living and for accomplishments in Extension Service work to the following: Pearl MacDonald, nutrition specialist, Delaware; Director W. S. Brown of Georgia; M. L. Mosher, farm management specialist, Illinois; Dr. R. C. Bradley, poultry specialist, New Hampshire; Mrs. Fabiola D. Gilbert, home demonstration agent, New Mexico; Director E. J. Haslerud, North Dakota; Floyd I. Lower, county agricultural agent, Ohio; Director J. M. Fry, Pennsylvania; Pedro Olivencia, assistant 4-H Club leader, Puerto Rico; Mrs. Edna W. Trigg, assistant home demonstration agent, Texas; Robert H. Stewart, county agricultural agent, Utah; Dean John Arthur Hill, Wyoming.

Three Certificates of Recognition were awarded at large—one to Judge Marvin Jones, War Food Administrator; one to Mildred Horton, former Vice Director in Texas; and the other to George W. Kable, now editor of *Electricity on the Farm*, who was formerly extension agent in Oregon.

■ **MRS. ANITA BURNAM DAVIS** has resigned her position as field agent of 4-H Club work in Kentucky to join her husband, Capt. Benjamin H. Davis, stationed at Prisoner of War Camp, Hereford, Tex.

Mrs. Davis came to the 4-H Club department when it was first organized in September 1920. In her work with girls, she organized and trained the first State demonstration contest, assisted in formulating plans for the first junior week (later to become a high spot of the Kentucky 4-H Club year) and compiled *Sing Songs*, the first 4-H Club song book in the United States to contain words and music. Mrs. Davis was also instrumental in the establishment of 4-H Club cooperative houses on the university campus.

■ **MRS. HARRIET F. JOHNSON**, who resigned as 4-H girls' leader for South Carolina on October 1, 1944, completed 25 years of valuable work with the Extension Service. She worked first as a home demonstration agent in Spartanburg County, but during the past 22 years her time has been given to the 4-H Club girls of South Carolina.

In these 22 years she has seen the 4-H Club work of the State grow from a yearly enrollment of 4,000 4-H Club girls to more than 11,000, thus influencing through her leadership and outstanding personality more than a quarter million rural youth.

Mrs. Johnson worked faithfully with every county home demonstration agent in South Carolina in developing the county 4-H programs and in training new agents and local leaders in the conduct of these programs. She had the deep satisfaction of seeing many 4-H girls graduate from college, afterwards establishing themselves in their life work—some as homemakers, some as teachers, others as home demonstration agents, and in other selected careers.

Each year outstanding 4-H girls have attended the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago under the guidance of Mrs. Johnson. At these conferences, many of these girls have brought recognition and honor to their State. Until the war began, each year 2 girls achieving the greatest honors were given trips to the National 4-H Camp at Washington. Mrs. Johnson served for many years on national 4-H committees planning for further development of the national 4-H program which reaches yearly more than 1½ million 4-H boys and girls.

After the building in 1933 of Camp Long, the South Carolina 4-H Club Camp, Mrs. Johnson served as associate camp director. She spent much time in helping to make this camp one of the best in the United States for young people. She spent each summer at the camp assisting in molding the characters of the 20,000 boys and girls who attended camp following its opening. Here, as no-



**Mrs. Harriet F. Johnson**

where else, these young people realized the real meaning of the 4-H's—the fourfold development of the head, hands, heart, and health. Mrs. Johnson can truly be called the leader in carrying out the 4-H motto—To make the Best Better. Her song, *The 4-H Clover and the Rose*, used extensively in South Carolina clubs and accepted by the National 4-H Committee, will always live in the hearts of the 4-H members and extension workers of South Carolina. Mrs. Johnson has established a scholarship loan fund for 4-H girls.

Further development of 4-H work has been the organization of 4-H county councils culminating in a large State council in 1937. Local leaders for clubs have been trained for the past 10 years at special meetings at Camp Long, in counties, and in the district groups.

Caroline Woodruff succeeds Mrs. Johnson as State girls' club agent. Miss Woodruff is a graduate of Winthrop College and has already done some work on her master's degree at the University of Tennessee. In addition to serving as assistant agent in York County and for the past year as home agent in Colleton County, she has had teaching experience in home economics.

# For shipping overseas

■ Oregon home demonstration agents and emergency war food assistants provided a unique service to families of servicemen and incidentally did the boys on the battlefronts a mighty good turn at the same time in September and October when they sealed a total of 40,612 ordinary tin cans containing Christmas gifts.

The sealing was done by extension workers in 20 of the State's 36 counties. The number of cans sealed ranged from only a few in counties where the program got a late start to the highest record of 7,696 cans in Benton County. Since the sealing program corresponded with the army dates for mailing of overseas Christmas gifts—September 15 to October 15—all of these thousands of cans were handled in a month. Contents consisted primarily of fruit cakes, hard candies, nuts, fudge, cookies, coffee, and cheese.

## Everyone Pitched in To Help

Nearly everyone in the extension offices, particularly in those where several thousand cans were sealed, pitched in and helped during rush periods. But in addition to the extension staff, volunteers from the Red Cross, veterans' organizations, grocery stores, bakeries, and canneries, as well as housewives and others offered assistance.

The records show that 13,245 different persons were helped with Christmas gifts for their boys overseas. Of this number, 8,857 were contacted by the county extension offices for the first time. Some of them—and many were residents of small cities and towns—confessed that it was the first time they had realized such an office existed for the benefit of homemakers. Home demonstration agents reported unusual expressions of appreciation on the part of mothers, wives, sisters, and sweethearts.

One Hood River County mother said, "My boy told me to pack everything in tin for him on account of the ants, and until you offered this service I didn't know what to do." Another added, "At least the bugs down there won't get these cookies before the boys have a chance to sample them."

A Linn County mother said she had decided not to try to send any gifts, but the tin cans were such a wonderful idea that she sent six packages in one week with four cans to a package. A neighboring sailor who had spent 2 years in the South Pacific was fascinated by the idea, adding that boxed foods seldom arrive in that area in edible condition.

Home demonstration agents were also enthusiastic about the work even though it meant many long hours and getting sore arms and shoulders from turning the hand sealer. Ruth E. Crawford, Josephine County Home Demonstration agent at Grants Pass, expressed a rather common feeling. "Quite a number of people in Grants Pass commented that they felt a closer tie with the Extension Service after this service, having had no personal connection with it previously," she said. "A general friendly feeling of gratitude for a personal service was expressed many times. We were grateful to have the opportunity to help."

In Benton County where 1,841 persons visited the extension office for the first time, Helen M. Zimmer, emergency assistant, said the service gave many people an opportunity to visit her office. "The contacts that I made during this period I feel will be invaluable to me" she explained. "We sincerely hope it will be possible through these contacts to reach more communities and more people in each community with our work."

The idea for this service originated with Lucy A. Case, extension nutritionist, who previously had prepared an 11-page mimeographed circular on Food for Mailing. This included detailed information on mailing requirements, packaging, suggestions for things to send to boys overseas, including those held as prisoners of war, and a dozen suitable recipes.

With the assistance of Victor P. Moses, Corvallis postmaster, Miss Case got the approval of the third assistant postmaster general in Washington for her plan to have county extension workers inspect all the cans at the time of sealing so they would be accepted for mailing overseas without having to be opened before delivery. Labels indicating the contents to com-

ply with postal regulations were issued by the extension worker for each can sealed. Mrs. Azalea Sager, State Home Demonstration Leader, approved the idea as a State-wide project.

Most of the county offices already had the hand can sealers. Those that did not either scurried around and found one or called on local community canneries to help out. Cans either No. 2 or 2½, usually were purchased in large lots by the extension home agents from canneries, mail order houses, or wherever they could be obtained, and resold at cost. While packing of the cans could be done in the offices most women packed them at home and had them ready for sealing when they called at the office.

## Continued by Request

At the request of women in practically every county, Mrs. Sager says the sealing program will be continued on a somewhat smaller scale indefinitely. The big rush for army Christmas overseas mailings was over October 15, but food may be sent to men in the navy at any time and to soldiers on request. So Oregon's county home demonstration agents and emergency assistants expect to continue to do a brisk sealing business—a service that has brought hundreds of genuine, sincere expressions of gratitude and that has made thousands of new friends for the Extension Service in Oregon.

A service similar to this Oregon program on a single county basis was reported from Hillsborough County, Fla., in the Extension Service Review for April 1944.

## Harold Shull home

Capt. Harold Shull, former county agent in Washington County, Kans., after serving several months working out from air bases in Italy as a bomber pilot, has been returned to the States. He arrived in Manhattan October 3 and reported for continued duty on November 1 at the Army Air Field near Miami, Fla.

While overseas, "Hap" completed 50 missions with his Liberator bomber with the original engines and tires, which is said to be a record. He holds the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.



# *We Study Our Job*

## "Farmer's universe" studied in sample counties

Formerly the farmer's universe was his local community—the place where he lived and reared his children. Today the farmer's universe has expanded beyond the limits of his farm and his community because of different outside contacts and relationships. His markets are more distant. As a delegate of a local organization, he attends a central conference outside of his home county. He might even work part time at nonfarm occupations away from home.

For several years a large part of the field work of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has been focused on a group of counties selected to represent the Nation's farms and farm population. These counties are used as continuing sociological laboratories in which to study the farmer in his changing universe over a period of years. Every sample county was selected because it is representative of one of the seven major types of farming regions in the United States, namely, the dairy region, general and self-sufficing region, range-livestock region, the Western crop-specialty areas, and the Wheat, Corn, and Cotton Belts.

Reconnaissance surveys will be made in about 70 sample counties before July 1945 to get an over-all look at the farming picture. To get a better understanding of farm people and their relationships with the outside world, cultural and psychological facts as well as physiological and economic facts will be gathered. What are their cultural origins? To what extent are they participating in the world's culture? What sort of living are they getting out of agriculture? What factors enter into their social organization? Answers to these questions will give more information on the land and the natural resources by which farm people make a living, as well as a deeper appreciation of the people themselves.

In studying the cultural origins of the people, information will be col-

lected on their habits, customs and attitudes; the traditions brought into the area by early settlers, and the adjustments they made; as well as the physical environment, involving rainfall, heat or cold, and type of soil of the area over a period of years.

Data will be sought on how farmers from different areas make a living; the agricultural products they produce; the types of tools used—whether they are still "hoe" farmers or "mechanized" farmers; and any changes that have occurred in recent years in the use of farm tools.

Various group activities which influence attitudes and beliefs of farm people will be studied, such as the family, church, and school, and farmer organizations, trade associations, and political parties.

Such intangibles as value systems, attitudes, ideas, and ideals of farm people will also be studied. Such studies would concern their sentimental attachment for their land; their basic agricultural techniques, such as dates of planting, condition of crops at laying-by time, handling of livestock, harvesting grain, and curing tobacco; and their own evaluation of their security, family life, educational opportunities for their children, religion, and neighborliness.

From time to time, additional information will be gathered over a period of years to supplement the reconnaissance surveys of the sample counties.

## Studying the home agent's job

In 46 States, 182 home demonstration agents are keeping a daily time and job record for one week in the spring and one week in the fall. The data obtained from these records will give a picture of the activities carried on during the work days, the persons worked with, the methods used, and the project furthered. To get a typical representation, the agents who are keeping records were selected by random sampling. The study is being carried out under the supervision

of Mary Louise Collings of the Federal Extension staff.

In connection with problems reported, the study schedules give the home agent an opportunity to record the type of supervision she is getting and what she needs and wants. She is asked to indicate the degree of difficulty—whether "none," "some" or "much,"—that she has with certain functions of her job. In addition, she records the chief "likes" and "dislikes" she feels toward phases of her job. Facts obtained will be used to assist extension agents in more effective time management and program development.

In addition to this time and job analysis, home demonstration programs in four counties in four different regions are to be evaluated. This phase of the study seeks to find out how highly organized a county needs to be in order to carry on an effective home demonstration program.

Records are being tabulated by regions. From time to time, releases will be put out to acquaint extension workers with the facts obtained from the study. Information gained will be used at State conferences and training schools to help agents in planning.

## Young farm families organize

Added support for the extension program in Montgomery County, Mo., is now supplied by a young farmers' club of some 60 members consisting of young married couples ranging in age from the middle twenties to the middle thirties. Meetings are held one evening a month at the community building in Montgomery City. The program includes one outside speaker, reports from the county extension agents, and an hour for recreation. The event starts with a covered-dish supper. Virtually all those who attend these meetings are in the age group that seldom participates in the regular extension meetings.

# The once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

A CALL FOR VICTORY GARDENS in 1945 to equal the garden record of 1944 came from 125 Victory Garden leaders from all parts of the country who attended the national conference in Washington November 28 and 29. A recent survey showed 18½ million Victory Gardens grown in 1944, and practically all these gardeners are planning to grow gardens in 1945. Approximately 6 million were on farms, and about 12½ million were in cities and suburban areas. Among farm homes 88 percent had gardens; and less than half, or 44 percent, of the nonfarm homes grew 1944 gardens. More than two-thirds of the housewives of the Nation did some home canning or other form of home preservation. To maintain this record in 1945 will take the concerted effort of everyone.

IN THE WORLD AS A WHOLE, food production shows a moderate increase since the outbreak of the war, despite scarcities of fertilizers, equipment, labor, and other essentials of production, according to the U. S. D. A. Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The most outstanding increase was in North America where production shows a 30-percent increase. Other increases were: in South America, 17 percent; southern and eastern Asia, 3 percent; and Oceania and South Africa, 1 percent. In western Europe and North Africa, however, production declined about 6 percent, and in the Middle East, 5 percent.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING LEAGUE calls attention to the danger of snow-and-ice-covered highways. Accidents involving skidding on rural roads, according to a recent survey, show that 1 percent are on dry roads, 18 percent on wet roads, and 40 percent on snow- or ice-covered roads. Traffic deaths in the northern snow belts last winter ran mileage death rate 54 percent higher than summer toll, and more than usual snow and ice in some Southern States contributed to 24 per cent increase in the South. Skidding and reduced visibility are named as major hazards. Extension has need of every agent these days;

so reduce your speed, and be prepared to cope with slippery roads and poor visibility.

COMMERCIAL SPONSORING of extension radio programs came in for study at the meeting of the eastern division of the National Association of Radio Farm Directors. Sam Reck, extension editor in New Jersey, representing the Extension Service, reported on a poll of 17 Eastern States which showed only 3 States rigidly opposed to participation in commercial programs. The 17 States are broadcasting regularly on about 115 stations, and 106 of these are now providing sustaining time. About half a dozen of these States are getting all the sustaining time they can use, and the rest are prepared to go along with the U. S. D. A. policy of cooperating on commercially sponsored programs, when such action does not involve endorsing products or otherwise embarrassing the Department.

RURAL FAMILY NEEDS AND PREFERENCES in housing are to be studied by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics of the U. S. D. A., and Maud Wilson of Oregon State College has been lent for a few months to assist in planning such a study. Miss Wilson holds degrees from the University of Ne-

braska and University of Chicago and was formerly State home demonstration leader in Nebraska and in Washington. For the past 13 years, Miss Wilson has been engaged in studying the functional requirements of farmhouses and in using the results of these studies in planning houses and equipment for Oregon conditions.

STUDENTS FROM AFAR attended the 4-H Club Congress held in Chicago this year to observe the ways and the achievements of young 4-H winners. Young folks from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, and Colombia were there to get acquainted with the club members and leaders from 46 States. Visiting trainees in extension methods and farm practices included 25 students from Brazil, 2 from Chile, 2 from Colombia, and 2 from China. Canadian representatives included club members and leaders from Ontario and the leader of 4-H Club work in Quebec, Dr. A. R. Gobeil. Argentina was represented by Roberto Marcenaro, head of the division of rural life, Argentine Ministry of Agriculture. He is spending 8 months in the United States, studying under Dr. Carl Taylor the methods of the division of farm population and rural welfare of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

G. I. NEWS for Monmouth County, N. J., 4-H Club members in the armed forces came out with its first issue in December in time for Christmas. The idea of this letter came from the service men themselves who were home on furlough and eager for information on what their fellow 4-H members were doing. The plans are for four to six issues a year carrying human-interest stories about 4-H members. A committee of the county council prepares the letter with the advice and help of the county club agent, H. J. Stelle, who, having been in the county for the past 11 years knows most of the young folks. The big problem of the mailing list is being handled by the council which is planning on a circulation of 200.

THE STATE GOALS MEETINGS completed last month studied the 1945 national production program calling for about the same total crop acreage as was planted last year. The food-production job for 1945 will be just as important to the war and to the peace as it was in 1944.

## EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW

Published monthly by direction of the Secretary of Agriculture as administrative information required for the proper transaction of the public business, and with the approval of the Bureau of the Budget as required by Rule 42 of the Joint Committee on Printing. The REVIEW is issued free by law to workers engaged in extension activities. Others may obtain copies from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 10 cents per copy or by subscription at \$0.75 a year, domestic, and \$1.15 foreign. Postage stamps are not acceptable in payment.

Prepared in the  
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EXTENSION SERVICE  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
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☆ U. S. Government Printing Office: 1945-620347